United States Department of Agriculture

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NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE
TRANSMITTAL NOTICE NO. 59

SUBJECT: ECS – Section II, New Mexico Protected Species Records Search

Purpose: This notice transmits the New Mexico Protected Species records search.

Background: NRCS is required to identify "protected species" which are potentially present within the project's area of effect; in order to assist in the conservation of those species and to ensure our actions are consistent with Federal, State, and Tribal legal requirements.

NRCS policy defines "protected species" to include:
I. Federal Threatened or Endangered species and Designated Critical Habitat,
II. Federally Proposed species and Proposed Critical Habitat,
II. Federal Candidate species, and
IV. State and Tribal designated species of concern which are protected by law or regulation.

In New Mexico, there are five online resources that would need to be searched in order to compile a listing of protected species. To further complicate the process, many of the sources contain outdated information. For this reason, the NRCS State Office has compiled a database of all New Mexico protected species. The database offers a county query that produces a records search report. It also provides species accounts which include details on distribution, habitat, known threats and conservation considerations.

The Records Search Report will be used to:

1. complete the Environmental Evaluation (form NRCS-CPA-52) section on Threatened and Endangered species, and
2. will be used throughout the planning process to ensure NRCS's commitment to supporting its clients and partners in the conservation and improvement of habitat for protected species.

Data Updates: Species' listing information changes often. The State Biologist will revise the database as changes occur. Therefore, it is critical for planners to only use the FOTG version.

File: The database will be maintained in the FOTG Section II under Threatened & Endangered Species: http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/fotg/section-2/t-e.html

Contact: If you questions or would like training on this document, please contact Chanda Pettie, State Biologist, at (505) 761-4432 or at chanda.pettie@nm.usda.gov

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